

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-09 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 L-03 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 RSR-01 /102 W

----- 073074

R 161412 Z MAR 73

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2700

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 0217

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SF

SUBJ: FURTHER CALLS FOR IMPROVED REPRESENTATION OF
AFRICAN WORKERS.

REF: JOHANNESBURG 166

1. MARCH 14 JOHANNESBURG CONFERENCE OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE
PERSONNEL MANAGERS ON LABOR UNREST, ORGANIZED BY INSTITUTE OF
PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT, FEATURED ADDRESSES BY KWAZULU LEADER
GATSHA BUTHELEZI, DURBAN MAYOR RON WILLIAMS, NATAL BUSINESSMEN,
AND PROMINENT TRADE UNION OFFICIALS. REPORTED CONSENSUS WAS
THAT IN ABSENCE OF ANY RADICAL CHANGES IN EXISTING LABOR
LEGISLATION, STRIKES BY AFRICAN WOULD INCREASE AND THAT BLACK
WORKERS WOULD INEVITABLY BE ORGANIZED INTO UNIONS. DISCUSSION
FOCUSED ON PROBLEM OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND
AFRICAN WORKERS, WITH MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIVES IN GENERAL
AGREEMENT THAT GIVEN GOVERNMENT'S ADAMANT REFUSAL TO PERMIT
AFRICAN TRADE UNIONS, IMMEDIATE SOLUTION MUST BE SOUGHT IN
WORKS COMMITTEES. VARIOUS SUGGESTIONS MADE FOR MAKING COMMITTEES
A MORE EFFECTIVE CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INSTRUMENT FOR
WORKING OUT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS.

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2. FOLLOWING DAY AT SEMI- ANNUAL MEETING OF PRESTIGIOUS
JOHANNESBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, BODY' S 1972-73 PRESIDENT
RICHARD MITCHELL ISSUED CALL FOR AFRICAN TRADE UNIONS ARGUING
THAT RECENT NATAL STRIKES DEMONSTRATED INEFFECTIVENESS OF
EXISTING NEGOTIATING MACHINERY. HE SAID THAT WORKS COMMITTEES
COULD NEVER BE FINAL SOLUTION AND THAT SOME FORM OF NEGOTIATING
MACHINERY ON AN INDUSTRY BASIS FOR NON- WHITE LABOR FORCE
ESSENTIAL. SUCH MACHINERY WOULD ALSO PROVIDE THE BASIS AND
TRANING FOR MORE RESPONSIBLE PARTICIPATION BY AFRICAN WORKERS.
LUTKINS

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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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CAPE TOWN
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